PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

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CONYERS SEES HOPE FOR CONSENSUS AND BIPARTISANSHIP ON ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION

After today's meeting with Attorney General Ashcroft and other Administration officials to discuss the Administration's anti-terrorism proposal, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement:

"I greatly appreciate the Administration briefing us on their proposal. I pledge to work with the President, the Attorney General and my Republican colleagues on this issue.

"I am still reviewing the very large and complicated proposal given to us by the Administration. It is my hope that after we hold hearings on this matter, we can move expeditiously on those matters proposed by the Administration and others which prove to be non-controversial and emergency in nature, and take up the other more contentious proposals later. I was pleased to learn that Members on both sides of the aisle and both the House and the Senate echoed these sentiments. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee on this most important proposal in the days and weeks to come.

"As we fight terrorism, we must ensure that we do not become the enemy ourselves. It is essential that we do not let this horrendous act destroy our fundamental freedoms."